



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GO SERV "SPOTLIGHT" HONORS OUTSTANDING COVINA VOLUNTEER

Through Local Hospice Program, Volunteer Helps Others Dealing with Grief

SACRAMENTO - The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) is featuring Ben Hultsman, a Citrus Valley Hospice volunteer in West Covina. Ben has spent the better part of 7 years volunteering in several capacities but has spent most of his time helping people deal with losing a loved one through the local hospice's Bereavement Program.

"We need more active volunteers like Ben who helps people deal with the grief he himself has experienced," Executive Director of GO SERV, Chuck Supple said.

Ben's wife of 40 years passed away in 1990 and his experience caused him to want to help others in similar situations. As part of the bereavement program, Ben is instrumental in keeping the program running smoothly. He offers an empathetic ear and a shoulder to cry on and his own personal journey through loss has helped him to relate to others suffering the pain of losing a loved one. Ben became actively involved in the hospice program and currently serves on the Board of Friends of Hospice, a fund raising program to assist in the provision of hospice services to those in need.

During the past 7 years, Ben has helped to accompany hundreds of grieving individuals and families in their journey through loss and grief. On any given day, Ben can be found co-facilitating a bereavement group or serving as a grief companion at the Citrus Valley Hospice. The coordinator of the program refers to Ben as her "right hand man" and doesn't know what she would do without him.

The GO SERV *Spotlight* is a weekly recognition program, honoring community service organizations or individuals involved in community service. To view the full *Spotlight* story, please visit the GO SERV Web site at www.goserv.ca.gov. *Spotlight* nomination forms, as well as other volunteer opportunities, are also available on GO SERV's website.

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